

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS.

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AUGUST, 1926: WARM AND MAINLY FINE. RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION IRREGULAR BUT BELOW NORMAL GENERALLY.

General.—August, 1926, was on the whole fine and warm, the temperature excess being well marked both by day and by night. Sunshine totals were generally above normal except in the south-western districts of England and Wales and in the Channel Isles. Precipitation showed rather wide local variations but in general amounts were below normal. There were occasional thunderstorms and in a number of districts the heavy rainfall associated with them accounted for the greater part of the month's total.

After mainly fine, warm weather at the beginning of the month conditions deteriorated somewhat towards the end of the first week; during the night of the 5th to 6th rain fell in Scotland and in the northern districts of England and Wales and on the 6th thunderstorms occurred locally. During the next two weeks, rather unsettled weather with bright intervals prevailed. Heavy falls of rain associated with thunderstorms occurred locally on the night of the 9th to 10th, on the 11th and on the night of the 16th to 17th (see section under Precipitation). Day temperatures, however, during this period remained fairly high, many places recording maximum temperatures of 75°F. and above. Good sunshine records were obtained on various days especially on the 12th when many stations in south and south-east England registered between 12 and 14 hours and on the 17th when Colwyn Bay registered 13 hours and Hoylake and Sheffield more than 12 hours.

During the last ten days of the month, high pressure systems spread over England from the south giving drier weather in many parts (at Kew there was no appreciable rain after the 21st) and an anticyclone which passed across the British Isles on the 27th and 28th caused a few days of very fine warm weather temperature reaching 84°F. in London.

On the 31st a trough of low pressure which approached from the Atlantic brought a renewal of unsettled weather and cooler winds in its rear.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Southport—An excellent month with a considerable frequency of westerly winds. Sunny and warm but never hot. Rainfall normal, more than eight times as much rain falling between midnight and noon as between noon and midnight (summer Time). Huddersfield (Oakes)—Warm and Sunny. Copdock (Suffolk)—The month opened and closed with fine weather, but there was an unpleasant period in the middle with rain, high temperature and very humid atmosphere. Bromyard—Good harvest weather. Newport (Isle of Wight)—Very dry and fine month. Dublin—A very warm but showery month; fine and dry at beginning and end.

Pressure and Wind.—The mean pressure was everywhere above the normal. The deviations of monthly mean pressure at fixed hours varied from 4.6mb. at Southampton to 0.8mb. at Stornoway and Lerwick. The highest recorded pressure was 1031mb. at Cahirciveen on the 2nd and the lowest 977mb. at Lerwick on the 21st. Gales (as recorded by anemometers) of short duration occurred at Southport on the 21st and 22nd, at Kingstown on the 22nd and at Eskdalemuir near midnight on the 23rd. At Eskdalemuir, a gust of 62 mi/hr. the highest recorded at any anemometer station during the month was recorded shortly after midnight on the night of the 23rd–24th. Winds of gale force were observed at a number of stations, the highest number reported being five at W. Linton but in general, however, the month was a quiet one, light to moderate winds between south-west and west predominating.

Temperature.—The mean temperature of Districts 1–10 was 60.2°F. and was 1.8°F. above the normal. The mean temperature of each District was above the normal, the greatest excess 2.2°F. occurring in England S.W. (mean temperature 61.6°F.) and the smallest excess 1.2°F. in Scotland E. (mean temperature 57.0°F.) The warmest periods generally were the first few days of the month, the 16th to the 18th and the last ten days of the month. Some rather high night minima were recorded notably during the week ending on the 21st, on the night of the 23rd–24th and during the last few nights of the month. Ground frosts occurred at a few stations, but in no district did the number of ground frosts exceed three.

The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 84°F. at London (Kensington Park) on the 30th and at Greenwich (Glaisher Stand) on the 31st, 36°F. at Houghall and Garforth on 1st and at Rhayader on 27th. (Scotland) 78°F. at Perth and Kelso on the 1st and at Kilmarnock and Rothwell on the 30th, 36°F. at Balmoral on the 8th. (Ireland) 78°F. at Dublin (Botanic Gardens) on the 15th and 23rd, 39°F. at Birr Castle on the 3rd.

Precipitation.—At most stations in the British Isles monthly totals were below normal but owing mainly to heavy falls associated with thunderstorms there were considerable local variations. Thus the total for the month, expressed as a percentage of the normal, 1881–1915, amounted to 153 per cent. at Brighton due largely to a heavy fall associated with a thunderstorm which occurred in the last rainfall day of the month and to 71 per cent. at Eastbourne. The month was the driest August at Richmond (Surrey) since 1899 and at Balmoral since 1911. The driest periods generally during the month were the 1st to the 5th and from about the 22nd to the end of the month.

The precipitation for the British Isles considered as a whole expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881–1915 was 82. The values for the constituent countries were:—England and Wales 79, Scotland 86, Ireland 86.

Thunderstorms occurred at most stations on from one to about five occasions.

In many cases the storms were accompanied by heavy local falls of rain. In Scotland the most widespread storms were experienced on the 6th, 10th and 11th. That of 6th was exceptionally severe in Dundee, and that of 11th in Glasgow. In Dundee on 6th destructive flooding occurred, but the rainfall intensity varied greatly, being apparently most severe in the centre of the city where about 1.00 in. fell in 20 minutes (from about 2.25 p.m. to 2.45 p.m. G.M.T.).

Associated with thunderstorms on the night of the 9th to 10th 49mm. (1.71 in.) fell at Rhayader, 48mm. (1.88 in.) at Llyn Fawr (Glamorgan), 46mm. (1.81 in.) at Malvern and 42mm. (1.65 in.) at Llandrindod Wells. In south-eastern England a severe thunderstorm occurred during the night of the 16th–17th; 43mm. (1.71 in.), amounting to almost three quarters of the month's total, fell at Tenterden (Kent) and 39mm. (1.54 in.) at Ramsgate. Damage by lightning and heavy rain was reported from most places along the south and south-east coasts from Carisbrooke in the Isle of Wight to Margate. Ramsgate suffered particularly, the damage there being estimated at several thousands of pounds. At Dover, after a calm night, the wind sprang up suddenly and reached a velocity of 46 miles per hour; 11.2mm. (0.44 in.) of rain was registered in 12 minutes and 18.8mm. (0.74 in.) in three hours. At Margate 16.5mm. (0.65 in.) fell between 0.30 and 1.30 G.M.T. and 13mm. (0.51 in.) fell in less than 20 minutes. At Hellingly in Sussex, the storm lasted 50 minutes, during which time 30.8mm. (1.21 in.) of rain fell, 18.5mm. (0.73 in.) falling in 12 minutes. At Upper Hardres and Bossingham, in Kent, there was very heavy hail accompanied by a high wind, and a great deal of damage was done to fruit and crops; on the 19th there was still a large quantity of ice remaining outside Upper Hardres church. The chief feature of the storm was the vividness and continuity of the lightning; an observer near Tunbridge Wells frequently counted as many as four flashes per second.

Sunshine.—With the exception of England S.W. and the Channel Isles, the mean daily duration of sunshine was above normal in all Districts. The deviations from normal varied from +1.08 hrs. in England N.E. (mean daily duration 6.35 hrs.) to -0.94 hrs. in the Channel Isles (mean daily duration 6.61 hrs.)

Good sunshine records were obtained in several districts on various days during the month, notably during the first week, about the middle of the month and in the southern and eastern districts of England from the 26th to the 29th.

Fog.—Little fog was reported during the month. Coastal fog occurred locally in the south-west of England, mostly between the 23rd and 25th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar and lunar halos were observed on various dates at many stations during the month. At Oxford observations were made of parhelia on the 4th, 27th, and 29th and of paraselenae on the 22nd.